Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 SSM-03 MCT-01 SY-05 //082 W

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O 181239Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6928
INFO MAMEMBASSY AMMAN 3624
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TELAVIV
USUN 797

CONFIDENTIA DAMASCUS 0996

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS MILI LE SY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

SUBJ: KHADDAM DISCUSSES LEBANON FEB 18

REF: STATE 42585 BEIRUT 906, 907

- 1. KHADDAM TOLD ME SATURDAY MORNING THAT HIS REPORTS INDICATED SITUATION STABILIZING IN BEIRUT. ADDED THAT CHAMOUN'S STATEMENT YESTERDAY HAD BEEN POSITIVE AND HELPFUL TO THAT END. ASKED ABOUT ISRAELI RADIO REPORT OF THIS MORNING THAT ADF HAD OCCUPIED A TRAINING CAMP BELONGING TO CHAMOUN'S FOLLOWERS NORTH OF BEIRUT, KHADDAM REPLIED HE HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN INFORMED OF SUCH A MOVE.
- 2. REDEPLOYMENT OF ADF FORCES WOULD CONTINUE, KHADDAM NOTED, AND ALWAYS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOL ORDERS. RECALLED CONFIDENTIAL

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WHEN HE WAS IN BEIRUT LAST WEEKEND HE HAD SUGGESTED TO CHRISTIAN LEADERS LOWERING ADF PROFILE BY USING LEBANESE POLICE TO REPOACH THEM AT VARIOUS ROADBLOCKS. CHAMOUN HAD SAID HE THOUGH ROADBLOCKSSHOULD BE DONE AWAY WITH BUT HE WAS COUNSELED BY GEMAYEL WHO ASSERTED

THAT THEY SHOULD BE LEFT IN PLACE AND MANNED BY ADF

TO AVOID INCREASE IN TENSION.

3. KHADDAM SAID CONTINUED INCIDENTS QRE PREDICTABLE BUT THAT HE BELIEVED LATEST WAVE OF TENSION HAS SUBSIDED. KNOWLEDGE ON PART OF ALL ELEMENTS IN LEBANON, INCLUDING PALESTINIANS, THAT ADF WOULD STRIKE HARSHLY AT ANY TROUBLEMAKERS WOULD KEEP FUTURE INCIDENTS FROM ESCALATING.

MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 18 feb 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DAMASC00996
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D780075-1102

Format: TEL From: DAMASCUS Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780238/aaaabfse.tel

Line Count: 70 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 8bef07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION NEA

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: 78 STĂTE 42585

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 20 jun 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3550002 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: KHADDAM DISCUSSES LEBANON FEB 18 TAGS: PINS, MILI, LE, SY, (KHADDAM, ABD AL-HALIM)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8bef07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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